

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2002-175224 to Shirakawa ("Shirakawa") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003-0126243 to Kudo et al. ("Kudo").

Applicant proposes to amend claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 21. Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-21 would remain pending in the application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa in view of Kudo.

Amended independent claim 1 recites a system comprising, among other features:

means for causing the means for connecting/disconnecting to disconnect the first home network from the external network . . . during at least one of registering the device as a member on the first home network, transferring media content to the device, and issuing a license to the device allowing the device to use the media content

(emphases added). Shirakawa and Kudo, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least the claimed means for causing the disconnection.

The Office Action correctly concedes that Shirakawa fails to teach or suggest the claimed means for causing the disconnection, and relies on Kudo to remedy the deficiencies of Shirakawa. Page 3. However, Kudo fails to teach or suggest the claimed means for causing the disconnection.

Kudo discloses "a method for connecting a new network device to a network."

¶ 1. In Kudo, "[t]he decision of permission block 4 receives a network connection

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

request from a new network device . . . and displays the connection request message of the new device on the displaying block 7 to notify the user of the request A response receiving block 10 receives responses from the network devices . . . [regarding the] user's acknowledgement." ¶ 18. Then, "[t]he decision of permission block 4 . . . determines whether to permit the connection of the new network device according to the result received from the response receiving block 10." ¶ 18.

However, allowing a user to select whether to permit a requesting device to connect to the network, as disclosed by Kudo, does not constitute "disconnect[ing] the first home network from the external network . . . during at least one of registering the device as a member on the first home network, transferring media content to the device, and issuing a license to the device allowing the device to use the media content" (emphasis added). Kudo is completely silent as to "disconnect[ing] the first home network from the external network" under any circumstances.

As noted by the Office Action, Kudo discloses at ¶ 24, "the decision of acknowledgement block 26a determines the content and sends a "permit" or "not permit" acknowledgement to the gateway device 100 through the response processing block 29a according to the input of the user." Page 3. However, Kudo's content is not "media content." Rather, this refers to the content of the user's response to permit or not to permit the device to join the network. See, e.g., ¶ 27. For example, Kudo states, "[w]hen the content denotes 'permit', the gateway device 100 sends the necessary information to the network device 200a . . ." ¶ 27.

Further, Kudo's permit acknowledgement is not a "license . . . allowing the device to use the media content" (emphasis added). Rather, it is permission from the user for

the requesting device to join the network. See, e.g., ¶ 18. Kudo is completely silent as to "issuing a license to the device allowing the device to use the media content."

Amended independent claims 7, 13, 16, and 21, though of different scope than claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, and 17-20 depend from one of independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 16, and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependence.

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, placing the pending claims in condition for allowance. Entry of the Amendment would allow Applicant to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance. Alternatively, entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

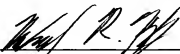
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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